Organization of Women in International Trade

From our OWIT International family to yours, we send our warmest wishes for a happy holiday season and a prosperous New Year!

WitCon NAIROBI

Thank you

From the desk of the OWIT International President

On behalf of OWIT International a heartfelt thank you to all of our amazing sponsors, partners, OWIT members around the globe, and especially OWIT Nairobi for making #OWITConNairobi a stunning success!

It was my dream to bring back our OWIT International conference with a vengeance, and we did it! I wanted the expertise of our chapters to shine, the networking opportunities to be abundant, the knowledge sharing ever present – and our 18 th OWIT International conference delivered. OWIT Nairobi were stellar hostesses. Our newest chapter OWIT Dominican Republic was present, and while in Nairobi, we voted in OWIT Nigeria! We had terrific representation from OWIT chapters around the globe including Chicago, Dominican Republic, Lake Geneva, New York, Nigeria, Northern California, South Florida, Toronto, Virtual, Washington DC, and even sparked interest in future chapter locations like Uganda!

For those of you who want to know what you missed, you can purchase the 2018 Conference webinars here . As a reference, you can view the workshop and conference agendas here .

Click here for photos from the Capacity Building Workshop and here for photos from the Conference .

Don't be left out - We are now working on our 19 th OWIT International Conference to take place in Tampa Bay, Florida on October 24, 2019. Save the date, and contact me at president@owit.org to get involved!

Warm regards.

Jennifer Diaz, Esq.
OWIT International President

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CHAPTER FEEDBACK ON THE OWIT 2018 CONFERENCE IN NAIROBI

From The WIIT Weekly, The Association of Women in International Trade (WIIT)

OWITCon2018 , which was held in Nairobi, Kenya on October 24-25, 2018, was a huge success. 83 people attended the Capacity Building Workshop sponsored by UPS and a networking platform sponsored by Thomson Reuters for women entrepreneurs on the first day of the conference. And over 175 attended the actual Conference on the second day, where the theme of the conference was: Bridging the Gap; Empowering Businesses to go Global. The OWIT conference brought together key players aiding the expansion of women in global trade. Speakers were drawn from global OWIT chapters, financial institutions, NGOs and policy institutions. They initiated dialogue on issues that make it difficult for women to enter international business, including poor access to credit and inadequate market information. 100 people downloaded the Conference app called Convene, which was provided for all attendees by conference sponsor Thomson Reuters. Small business sponsors and a number of other sponsors also provided items for swag bags given to all conference attendees. In addition, 8 local and 15 general strategic OWIT partners attended the conference.

Leading up to the conference itself, OWIT held two jewelry fundraisers on Etsy in August and October to help raise funds, awareness and the number of conference attendees where 10-20% of the proceeds went towards the conference. In the end, the conference was profitable and OWIT still is awaiting additional sources of funds to be paid by the host chapter. Also, two new chapters - OWIT Nigeria and OWIT Dominican Republic joined OWIT International at the OWIT board meeting held at Huawei, another sponsor, on October 26, 2018. Camelia Mazard attended the Fall Board meeting as OWIT representative for the DC chapter and is pictured to the right with the president of OWIT.

The OWIT Spring Board Meeting will be in Washington, DC in March 2019. **The next OWIT conference and Board Meeting will be held in Tampa, Florida on October 25-28, 2019.**

First OWIT International Conference in a Decade a Huge Success

By: Susan Baka, VP International at OWIT-Toronto

OWIT-International held its first conference outside of North America in Nairobi in October and, by all accounts, it was a resounding success. With participants from Africa, Switzerland, the US, Canada and the Caribbean, the event was hosted by OWIT-Nairobi, the first African chapter of OWIT, under the theme Bridging the Gap: *Empowering Businesses to Go Global.*

The first day featured a capacity-building workshop for local women entrepreneurs seeking to take their business across borders, with presenters including trade experts from around the world. OWIT-Toronto's VP International Susan Baka gave a well-received presentation on Creating Strategic Alliances across Borders that highlighted TFO (Trade Facilitation Office) Canada which helps exporters in developing countries such as Kenya access the Canadian market.

Day Two was a conference for trade practitioners and policy makers from around the world to discuss best practices, what's next for the future of trade, and what women's roles should be in that future. The African women who attended considered it a game-changing experience and are keen to export. They are so excited about OWIT that the women who attended from countries other than Kenya, such as Uganda, now want to start a chapter too.

The event also included a board meeting for OWIT chapter representatives who shared a variety of best practices to ensure strong chapters. Susan presented tips on developing partnerships, based on OWIT-Toronto's experience. The board also voted in OWIT-Nigeria as a new chapter and welcomed representatives from the newly-created OWIT Dominican Republic chapter.

OWIT-International's next annual conference will be held in Tampa, Florida in October 2019. Watch for details in the new year… and plan to attend. You'll learn from world-class speakers and have the opportunity to network and develop relationships with amazing, like-minded women from chapters beyond our borders.

Kudos to OWIT Nairobi, under the leadership of its President Mucha Mlingo and to Conference Chair Suzie Zimmerman of WIIT DC for a first-rate event!

For more pictures from this distinguished Conference, click here!

What OWITConNairobi Meant to Me

By Monity Odera, publisher and author of children's books and OWIT Nairobi Member

> "OWIT has given me a platform where I can share my experiences and learn from other business people not only in Kenya, but across the globe. I have been able to interact with fellow women and develop relationships and expand my networks."
>
> – Evelyn Kasina, Eveminet Communication Solutions Limited

Conference organization

For the very first time in OWIT's history, a conference was being held on African soil. After a lot of lobbying and strategizing, Nairobi, Kenya was decided as the venue. It was with much joy, foreboding, anxiety and everything related that OWIT-Nairobi board members undertook to organizing for the conference. Would they pull it off? Would it be a flop? Thanks to the leadership of Madam President, Mucha and her team, they did not just pull it off, but it was a great experience. A big shout out to Eva (OWIT Nairobi administrator) too!

Click here to read more on what OWITConNairobi meant to Monity

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OWIT NAIROBI CONFERENCE IN BUSINESS NEWS, 24th Oct. 2018

OWIT-International President, Jen Kimball & OWIT-Nairobi President, Mucha Mlingo express that #OWITConNairobi is a platform to advance women in international business during interview by BrandPlus TV. Watch the full interview on YouTube by clicking here .

PAST EVENTS

OWIT Dominican Republic with the Ambassador of Canada in the Dominican Republic

A memory with Emprende SDQ earlier this year where some enterprising women were highlighted, with an emphasis on their courage when facing every day challenges to improve their lives.

In the photo, part of the board of OWIT Dominican Republic took a photo together with the honorable Ambassador of Canada in the Dominican Republic, Mrs. Shauna Hemingway, who took part in this initiative.

Tampa Bay OWIT Recap on the Annual Awards Dinner in Oct. 2018

Tampa Bay OWIT's International Person of the Year, Rachel Marks Feinman, poses with members of the TBOWIT Board (top right picture). Scholarship recipients Sy-Woei Hao, Kai Su (Stetson College of Law) and Kayla Stutesman (St. Petersburg College) talk with Luz Nagle (bottom picture left to right).

If you missed it - you missed it! The evening started with a wine tasting, to our attendees' delight. During a delicious dinner, our moderator **Olga Pina** led an excellent discussion on the real effects of the current tariff changes with panelists **Anthea McQuoid,** Global Sales & Marketing Teknatool Int'l, **Christiona Louis** , International Commercial Banking Group, BBVA Compass, **Laurel Evans** , Senior Account Manager XPO Global Forwarding. The heart of the evening progressed with awarding three scholarships - Undergraduate - **Bethany Febre** , St. Pete Collage *(in absentia)* and **Kayla Stutesman** , University of Tampa & Graduate - jointly given to **Kai Su** & **Sy-Woei Hao** , Stetson College of Law. The grand finale was the awarding of the TBOWIT International Person of the Year to **Rachel Marks Feinman** , Executive Director, Florida-Israel Business Accelerator. Thank you to all who attended! Thank you to the TBOWIT Board for all their hard work! Thank you to Christyna Doege, TBOWIT President for her skills as the emcee!

'Build Your Aptitude for Self-Confidence: Activate Your Inner Aladdin Genius'

Workshop by Mladenka Perroton: 16 October 2018, Geneva

The workshop by Mladenka Perroton was a wonderful event with over 20 participants present. We were able to learn more about ourselves and share our insights with others in a safe and nurturing environment.

During the workshop, we discovered how our past is influencing us and also how we can change that.

Mladenka showed us the pyramid of needs and encouraged us, one by one, to position ourselves in the pyramid depending on our aspirations. She then demonstrated the process of visualization to help us achieve our dreams.

The workshop was facilitated according to everyone's needs, with respect, kindness, fun, compassion and openness. We thank Mladenka for her time and willingness to show us how to activate our inner genius!

Find out more about Mladenka who is passionate about coaching and writing, on her website **http://coaching-et-vous.ch** .

UPCOMING EVENTS

Businesswomen's Trade Mission to Monterrey, Mexico on February 4 th – 8 th , 2019

Seize the opportunity to leverage the new US Mexico Canada Agreement - USMCA and join us on this unique trade mission to meet prospective clients and learn about opportunities in advanced manufacturing in Mexico, and to raise awareness of the involvement and contribution of women in manufacturing and ICT. Visit to Expo Manufactura Expo.

Join this Businesswomen's Trade Mission on February 4th - 8th, 2019 to Monterrey, "the Industrial Capital of Mexico", located in Northern Mexico, one of the regions with the largest presence of automotive and aerospace manufacturing companies and home of notable Software and ICT companies in Latin America.

For details of the mission objectives, program and further information, click here!
Limited spaces available. To register, email Fawzia Sheikh at fawzia@idirect.com .

Meet WIT-LA's 2018 Marjorie Shostak and Gladys Moreau Scholarship Winners

CLICK TO REGISTER FOR WITMAS AROUND THE WORLD

WIIT Presents: Women – Entrepreneurship and Empowerment on January 31, 2019

The Association of Women in International Trade (WIIT) invites you to a discussion on women's economic engagement and empowerment. As women's full participation in global society progresses in fits and starts, economic engagement has become a topic and "economic empowerment" a buzzword. What actually matters when it comes to women and money? Is there one answer globally or do we need a local lens?
Come hear from women involved in concrete ways with addressing the economic gender gap:

- **Wendee Wolfson** has been an angel investor for decades, and is a mentor and leader helping bring other women into the world of investing through Next Wave Impact
- **Ronit Avni** is an entrepreneur and the founder and CEO of Localized, connecting students in the Middle East with a mentor network in North America
- **Kate Schecter**, currently serving as CEO of World Neighbors, is focused on the empowerment of the world's poorest women through her work in the nonprofit world

The discussion will be moderated by Arbora Johnson who is an impact investor in female entrepreneurs with Next Wave and Rethink Impact.

CLICK HERE FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO REGISTER

ADVERTISE WITH US!

Ready to grow your business with OWIT International? OWIT International offers you the opportunity to connect with an audience of global trade to trade professionals, passionate about supporting the advancement of women in international trade and business. To find out more on how to advertise with us, please contact Jen Diaz at President@owit.org .

Free stock image courtesy of pexels.com

NCBFAA EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTE

NCBFAA Needs Subject Matter Experts Like You!

The NCBFAA Educational Institute (NEI) invites all OWIT members to consider authoring an export-focused case study for their Certified Export Specialists! Each year, NEI designees need to earn 20 continuing education credits, and to assist them the NEI offers four free online case studies so that designees can meet their credit requirement without cost or travel. The case studies are based on pertinent industry topics – past topics include *export compliance* , *ZTE* , and *license determinations* .
Authoring a case study is not only a great way to flex your brain muscles and share your expertise, but it is a great way to promote yourself to thousands of students! The case study will be branded with your name and company logo (if applicable), as well as link to your website which will be seen by any NEI student who completes the case study.
While you can author the content for a case study from scratch, you can also opt to base it off a regulation or trade document. We then need 15-20 questions and an answer key with citations. That's it! The NEI provides templates and will format and edit the case study before loading it into the system.
If you are interested and would like an example or more information, please contact NEI Director Cecilia Ferrara at nei@ncbfaa.org .

PARTNER SPOTLIGHT: ARE YOU FITT FOR TRADE?

Forum for International Trade Training

Whether you're looking to launch or grow your international business, invest in personal development for your employees, or meet your personal career goals, the right training and certification can help you stand out from the competition and take advantage of the opportunities waiting for you.
OWIT is partnering with The Forum for International Trade Training (FITT) to bring OWIT members even more opportunities to access resources and support to compete and succeed in the global marketplace.
The Forum for International Trade Training (FITT) as part of a collaboration with EDC (Export Development Canada), provides globally-recognized, international business training and certification. FITT's international business training programs and professional designation (CITP and FIBP) are endorsed by the World Trade Centers Association and the Government of Canada.
OWIT International members are eligible for discounted rates on FITT's online courses and workshops. You can learn more about FITT's online offerings here .
FITT keeps its members engaged and in touch, regardless of location, through their blog (www.tradeready.ca) and Twitter chats on various topics related to international business. Visit TradeReady and discover a wealth of information on a wide variety of global trade topics, for instance, this article focused on women in business: http://www.tradeready.ca/2018/topics/import-export-trade-management/5-stories-to-inspire-women-in-international-business/ .
To learn more about FITT and the amazing opportunities this partnership presents for OWIT International members, join us on January 29, 2019 for a joint webinar. For more information on the OWIT-FITT partnership, contact Cortney Morgan, VP for Partnerships at Cortney.Morgan@huschblackwell.com .

As an OWIT member, GroYourBiz is extending the opportunity for you to join their webinars free of charge. Next webinar is January 24, 2019 from 9:00am – 10:00am PST. Details are below – click to register!

Own Your Time: Practical strategies to take control of busy days

January 24, 2019 @ 9:00 am - 10:00 am PST Free

Presenter: Ann Gomez, founding president of Clear Concept Inc., and the best-selling author of *The Email Warrior: How to clear your inbox and keep it that way*.

What you will learn:

- Why multi-tasking is inefficient – how to stop multi-tasking and protect focus time for your key, strategic priorities
- How to establish a customized priority management system to balance time across competing priorities
- How to manage interruptions – including self-imposed interruptions – while remaining responsive
- How to overcome email overload, clear your inbox – and keep it clear
- Protect boundaries while thriving at both work and in life
- Streamline, scale back and seek help whenever life gets busy in order to achieve more, deliver higher quality work and maintain a better sense of balance.

About Ann Gomez

Ann Gomez is the founding president of Clear Concept Inc., and the best-selling author of *The Email Warrior: How to clear your inbox and keep it that way*. Clear Concept trains people to achieve their best through practical productivity and leadership programs and Ann is passionate about helping people accelerate their career and thrive at work and in life.

Ann is an engaging and inspiring speaker, with compelling talks about productivity and leadership. Ann and her team at Clear Concept work with several industries, including law, finance, healthcare and consumer goods. Recent clients include several top law firms, RBC, BMO, Sun Life, Manulife, Johnson & Johnson, The University of Toronto's Rotman School of Business and Queen's University.

Ann has been featured in The Globe & Mail and has appeared on CBC Radio, Global TV and BNN, and other major news outlets and online platforms, including Arianna Huffington's Thrive Global. She is an active blogger and has served as a spokesperson for several clients. She is active on Twitter @ClearConceptInc and LinkedIn.

Outside of work, Ann and her husband are on-the-go with their four active kids.

CLICK TO REGISTER HERE

Future GroYourBiz Webinars… more information to come!

February 21 : Building a Culture of Agility
Presenter: Pauline James

March 21 : Writing for Business: The Media Release
Presenter: Kathleen Rake

Did you know…

We have OWIT chapters in:

- Cairo
- Charleston
- Chicago
- Dominican Republic
- Greater Triangle NC
- Lake Geneva
- Los Angeles
- Mexico City
- Monterrey
- Nairobi
- New York City
- Nigeria
- Northeast Ohio
- Northern California
- Peru
- South Florida
- Tampa Bay
- Toronto
- Orange County
- Ottawa
- Virtual
- Washington DC

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Don't Miss Out on Any Member Benefits!

Did you know that as a member of one of OWIT's chapters, you are AUTOMATICALLY part of the OWIT International global network? Your complimentary OWIT International membership adds value to your local chapter membership by offering you added benefits and resources, including:

- Reciprocal benefits and member rate for events organized by any OWIT chapter worldwide;
- Member-discounted rate for OWIT International webinars and FREE participation in Members' Only webinars on professional development and special topics;
- Access to an expanded network of business and professional contacts;
- Free listing in OWIT International's searchable online membership directory and password to Members-Only section of OWIT International's website;
- Opportunities for professional growth through participation on OWIT International committees.

As a local chapter member, all you need to do is register on OWIT International's website www.owit.org . Create your free member profile today! If you're not a member of a local chapter, please visit http://www.owit.org/joinus/chapterlist to learn more about our chapters. If you have questions, please contact info@owit.org .

Call for Volunteers!

OWIT International needs you! We have nine amazing committees that are seeking volunteers. If you are interested, please contact OWIT President Jennifer Diaz at president@owit.org .

- ***Chapter Development:*** Are you interested in helping grow the OWIT network around the world? If so, this is the committee for you!
- ***Chapter Support:*** Are you interested in helping OWIT chapters learn the benefits of the OWIT network? If so, this is the committee for you!
- ***General Counsel:*** Are you interested in helping OWIT revamp our bylaws? If so, this is the committee for you!
- ***Marketing:*** Are you interested in helping with OWIT's newsletters and press releases? If so, this is the committee for you!
- ***Social Media:*** Are you interested in helping with keeping OWIT's social media active and up-to-date? If so, this is the committee for you!
- ***Partnership:*** Are you interested in working with OWIT's premier partners to increase the profile of OWIT around the world? If so, this is the committee for you!
- ***Conference:*** Are you interested in helping with OWIT's annual conference to ensure it is a success, with amazing speakers from all over the world, and all members of OWIT around the world attend? If so, this is the committee for you!
- ***Programming:*** Are you interested in helping with OWIT's webinars? If so, this is the committee for you!
- ***Virtual:*** Are you interested in helping ensure OWIT's virtual members who don't have a chapter near them feel included within the OWIT network? If so, this is the committee for you!
- ***Sponsorship:*** Are you interested in helping raise funds for this much-deserved organization via our small business sponsorship, corporate sponsorship, webinar sponsorship, and conference sponsorship? If so, this is the committee for you!

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About Organization of Women in International Trade (OWIT)

The Organization of Women in International Trade (www.owit.org) is a global association for women in international trade and business. Our 2,000-plus members impact hundreds of millions of dollars in trade and business transactions annually. OWIT's focus is on adding value to our corporate, mid-sized, small business and individual members around the world.

Organization of Women in International Trade
Website

See what's happening on our social sites: